



# News Release

**For immediate release:** January 24, 2014

(14-010)

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## **Spokane County nursing assistant suspended over mental health concerns**

**OLYMPIA** — A Spokane County nursing assistant’s license was immediately suspended due to concerns about her mental health and thoughts of being an “angel of death” for elderly patients in her care.

Marjorie Ann Surdez (NAC.NC.10092247) allegedly received inpatient mental health treatment on several occasions beginning in October 2013. The Washington State Department of Health’s Nursing Assistant Program suspended Surdez based on charges that state she threatened to commit suicide and harm others. Surdez admitted to a department investigator that she had thoughts about overmedicating elderly patients in her care to serve as their “angel of death;” she said she would then kill herself.

Surdez has 20 days to request a hearing to contest the charges and the suspension.

The documents can be seen online by clicking “[Look up a health care provider](#)” on the [Department of Health website](#); copies can be requested by calling 360-236-4700. That’s also the number to call to file complaints against health care providers in Washington.

The state Department of Health Nursing Assistant Program regulates certified nursing assistants and registered nursing assistants in Washington. The program establishes, monitors, and enforces qualifications for licensing, consistent standards of practice, continuing competency mechanisms and discipline. Rules, policies and procedures promote the delivery of quality health care to state residents.

The [Department of Health website](#) ([www.doh.wa.gov](http://www.doh.wa.gov)) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. Also, [find us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#).

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